

**Feasibility of Tracking**  
**Evaluating a Hazard Intervention – Mercury in Fish**

**Eric Frohmberg, MA**  
**Environmental Health Unit**



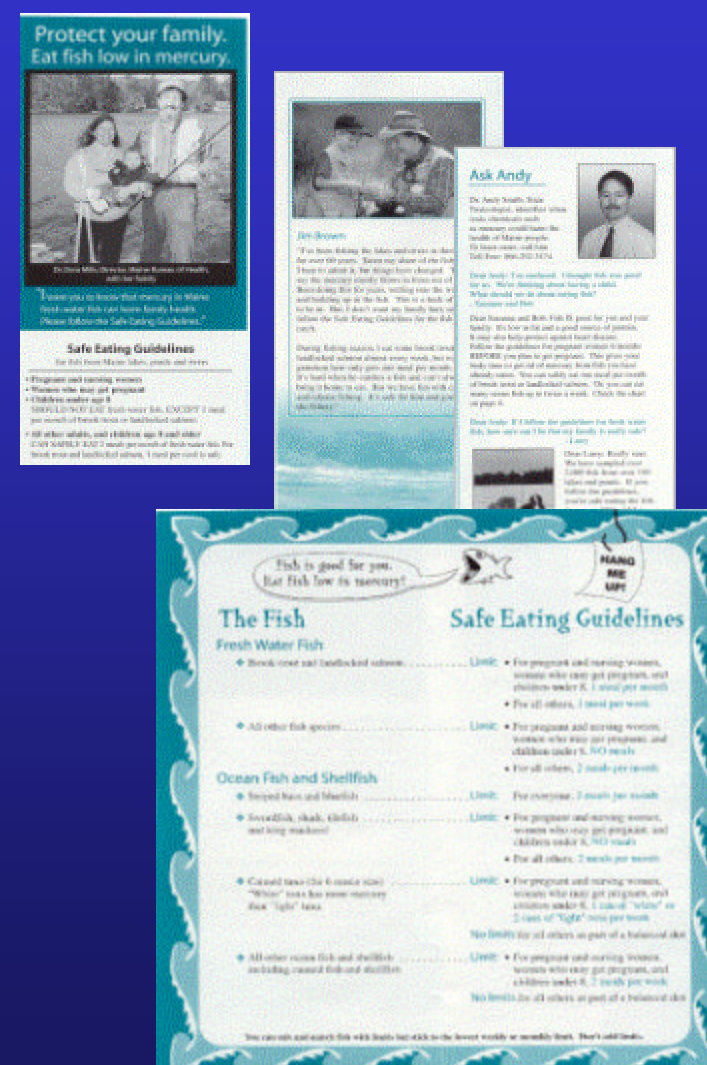
## Why mercury in fish?

- Significant population exposure
- We can and are intervening
- Are we having an impact?

## Background – Hg/Fish Basics

- Atmospheric deposition
- Biomagnifies in fish
- Fetal neurobehavioral toxicity
- Fish is good for you

# Background – Intervention Efforts



## Risk Communication Strategy

### 1) Simplify message and material

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level
- Focus group tested

### 2) Target pregnant women

- WIC
- OB/GYN, FP/OB, CNM

## Evaluation - Surveillance Goals

### Two Methods of Evaluation

#### Survey

- Expected n>500

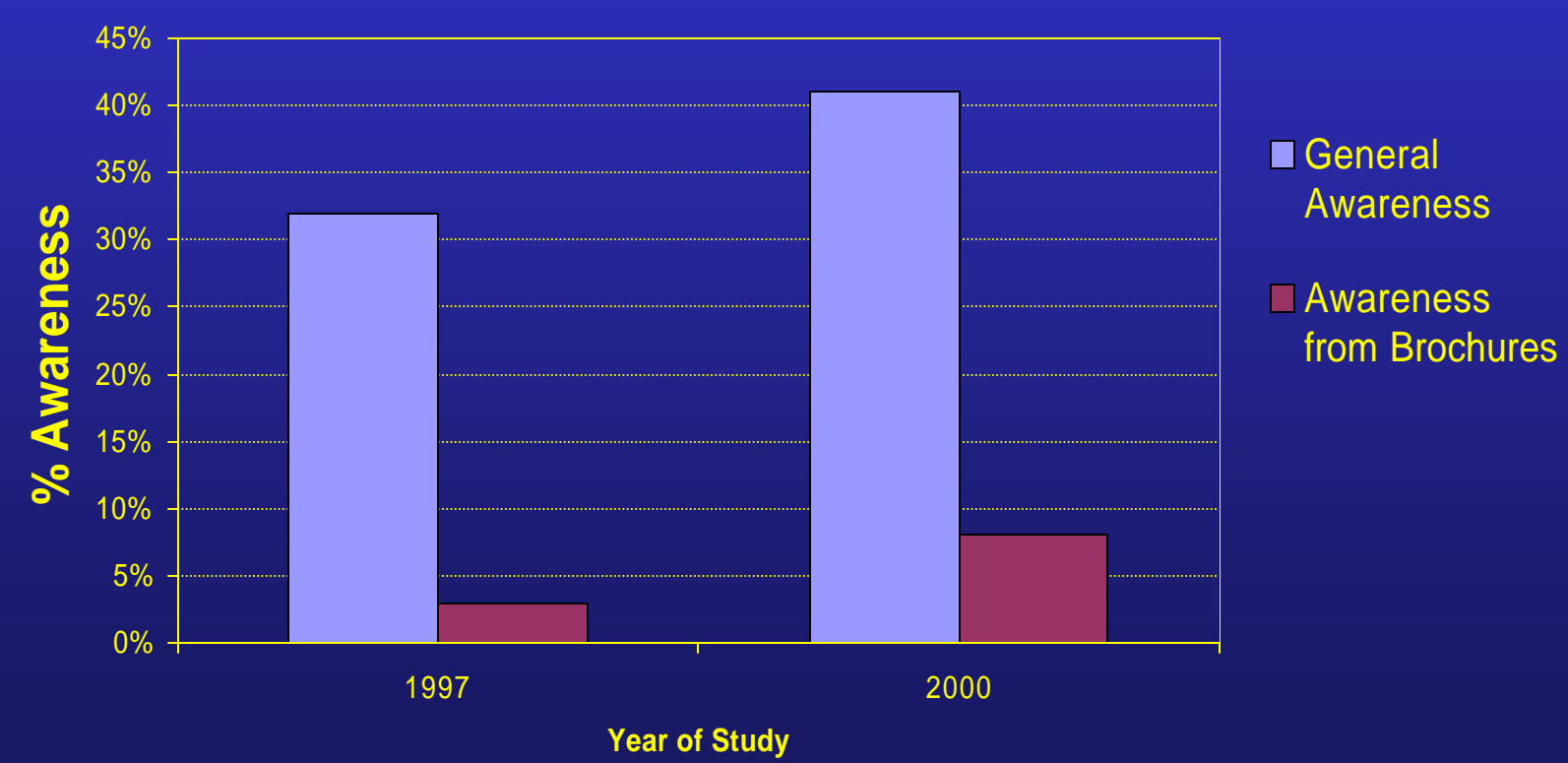
#### Hair Biomonitoring

- Expected n>100

Have baseline data for both data sets

# Evaluation - Surveillance Goals

Existing Baseline and Evaluation Data



## Evaluation - Surveillance Goals

Hair Hg Levels (ppm) in Women of Childbearing Age				
	Sample Size	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
National (NHANES)	702	0.2	0.5	1.4
Maine 1997	104	0.5	0.8	1.4

## Next Steps?

- Incoming data Spring 04
- Data analysis Summer/Fall 04



## How integrate into Tracking Grant?

- Track awareness over time
- See change in Hair Hg – especially in relation to fish consumption

## Feasibility

- Are there a subset of questions to integrate into existing surveys?
  - PRAMS
  - BRFSS

## Discussion Questions

- Is this where we want to put our efforts?
- Do you agree with Surveillance Goals?
  - Track awareness over time
  - Tie hair Hg with fish consumption